

REMARKS

Amendments to the claims

Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form by reciting the features previously recited in claim 1.

Claims 6, 8 and 9 have been amended consistently with the new language of claim 2.

No new matter has been added.

Allowable subject Matter

Claims 2-5 stand considered as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicants have rewritten claim 2 in independent form by adding the features previously recited in claim 1. Claims 3-5 depend on claim 2. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow claims 2-5.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C 102

Claims 1 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0067672 to Yanagawa.

The Applicants respectfully disagree; however, in order to move the application to issue, claim 1 has been cancelled and claim 9 has been amended consistently with the language of amended claim 2. Claims 6-8 were amended to depend on amended claim 2. At least in view of the above, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow claims 6-9.

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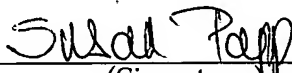
In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop After Final, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

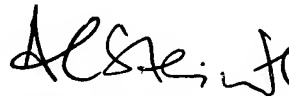
September 19, 2006  
(Date of Transmission)

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September 19, 2006  
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Respectfully submitted,



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